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Mortality during week ended October 23, 1904.

Four deaths were reported during the week as follows: One Jamaican, negro, female, 50 years, dropsy; 1 Jamaican, negro, male, 40 years, cause not known; 1 Colombian, white, male, 44 years, disease of the chest; 1 Panaman, negro, male, 3 months, spasm.

No cases of quarantinable diseases have been reported either in Panama or Colon.

PERU.

Reports from Callao—Plague situation—Inspection and fumigation of steamship Chile.

Assistant Surgeon Lloyd reports, October 8 and 11, as follows:

During the two weeks ended October 1, 11 new cases of plague occurred in Lima and 1 in Callao (provisional).

At this writing more than thirty days have elapsed since a case of plague was reported in Salaverry, and twenty-eight days since the last case was reported in Payta. In Eten and Pacasmayo cases are still occurring.

On September 29 the British steamship *Chile* was issued a bill of health, after fumigation and inspection. Because this vessel failed to comply with the United States quarantine regulations on the day of sailing the bill of health was withheld until the following morning in order to secure this compliance.

The plague situation in South America, though apparently somewhat improved, is practically unchanged in so far as the danger of infecting other ports is concerned, and in my opinion restrictive measures should be continued until the general sanitary conditions are improved, whether we have few cases of plague or many.

Summary of plague.

Reports from Salaverry give 32 cases of plague with 19 deaths during the recent outbreak.

In Eten, from August 29 to October 5, there were 41 cases of plague with 21 deaths; population, about 6,000.

In Arica cases continue to occur frequently, and vessels, as a rule, are not calling there at present.

Suggestions relative to the docking and fumigation of vessels—Sanitary conditions in South American cities not satisfactory.

With the approval of the Bureau, bills of health issued to vessels which dock in Callao between the hours of sunset and sunrise will contain the following clause:

Vessels which lie at the dock between the hours of sunset and sunrise are not recommended by this office as absolutely safe risks, whether fumigated here or not.

I have not construed paragraph 14, page 16, of the United States quarantine regulations as being absolutely prohibitive of docking. Vessels frequently bring machinery and other heavy material that can not be very well handled on lighters, and I do not believe that docking in the daytime is attended with very much danger. Occasionally vessels complete their voyage here and after lying at the dock for several days receive orders to proceed to ports in the United States. The effect of the above clause placed on the bill of health will be to prevent the docking of vessels unless it is absolutely necessary, or at least it can easily be made to have this effect by proper measures at ports of entry in the United States.

I think that vessels which lie at the dock during the night at plague-infected ports ought to be fumigated to kill vermin on arrival at a port in the United States. Vessels which do not dock and which are fumigated here are probably safe risks, provided there is no chance for subsequent infection. Because of the comparatively short distance between this port and Ancon, Canal Zone, vessels do not dock here when north bound. Some dissatisfaction has been expressed in San Francisco because vessels bound to New York were received in New York without fumigation, while those of the Kosmos line were being fumigated in San Francisco. I wish to say that the fumigation in San Francisco has usually been at my suggestion and because the Kosmos steamers have not been complying with the regulations here in a satisfactory manner until quite recently, whereas I have had no such trouble with the steamers for New York. These steamers have frequently taken our bills of health and been fumigated by request when they were on their outward voyage and did not require a bill of health.

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I believe we are justified in continuing sulphur fumigation until the coast towns of Chili, Ecuador, and Peru are placed in better sanitary condition, and I have suggested to many people concerned that we will be glad to remove restrictions from their commerce as soon as this is done.

* * * * *

I believe that Peru will shortly begin the work of general sanitation.

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I do not wish to be understood as disparaging the efforts of the present sanitary authorities. * * * Their outgoing quarantine is perhaps as rigid as circumstances will allow. Their disposal of actual cases of plague and the treatment of infected houses has already been discussed in a previous communication.